



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

MR. ERNIE LAZAR
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AUGUST 3, 2007

✓ Subject: FILE NUMBER 157-1025-353 PAGES 430
THROUGH 450

FOIPA No. 1071887- 000

Dear Mr. Lazar:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552

- (b)(1)
- (b)(2)
- (b)(3) _____

- (b)(4)
- (b)(5)
- (b)(6)

Section 552a

- (b)(7)(A)
- (b)(7)(B)
- (b)(7)(C)
- (b)(7)(D)
- (b)(7)(E)
- (b)(7)(F)
- (b)(8)
- (b)(9)

- (d)(5)
- (j)(2)
- (k)(1)
- (k)(2)
- (k)(3)
- (k)(4)
- (k)(5)
- (k)(6)
- (k)(7)

21 page(s) were reviewed and 21 page(s) are being released.

Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been:

- referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you.
- referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001 within sixty days from the date of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

- The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown, when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.
- See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,



David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

BH 157-352

[redacted] could not recall his whereabouts on the date of the second ARTHUR SHORES' bombing.

On the evening of the Gaston Motel bombing, [redacted] were playing bridge at the home of [redacted] [redacted], and left to return home about 11:00 p.m. They were traveling on extension of First Avenue in the Elmwood Cemetery when they saw two or three police cars go by. They proceeded on to their home and learned by radio reports that the Gaston Motel had been bombed.

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On the morning of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing, [redacted] was at his residence and approximately 10:20 or 10:40 a.m., his son, [redacted] accompanied him to the office where they prepared stock for a contract order. [redacted] had left that morning at 10:05 a.m. en route to church and when she returned she told [redacted] about the 16th Street Church having been bombed.

[redacted] again stated that his organization does not advocate any violence and that he did not know any suspects in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing.

[redacted] stated that this interview was not being recorded on any mechanical device. [redacted]

The following description was obtained from [redacted] observation and interrogation:

Name:

Alias:

Address:

Race:

Sex:

Age:

Height:

Weight:

Build:

Hair:

Eyes:

Remarks:

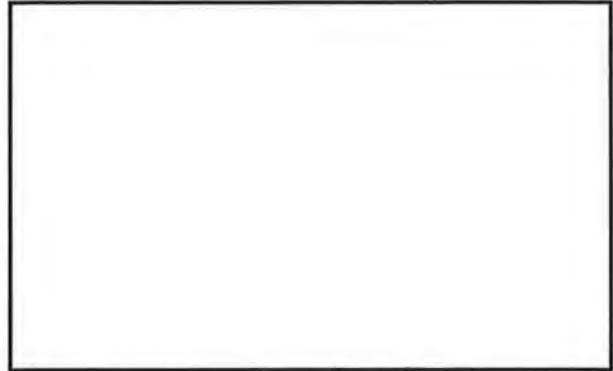
BH 157-352

Complexion:
Marital Status:
Wife:

Son:

Employment:

Business phone:
Residence phone:



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9/28/63

Lancaster Equipment
 Company, 2126 - 4th Avenue South, [redacted]
 [redacted], furnished the following information concerning his itinerary on September 24, 1963, when he travelled to Montgomery, Alabama, with [redacted]
 [redacted] United Americans for Conservative Government.
 [redacted] stated he and [redacted] left Birmingham on Tuesday morning, September 24, 1963, and proceeded by automobile to Montgomery, Alabama, and return approximately 4:30 PM the same day. While in Montgomery, on business concerning heating equipment contracts, they contacted the following state officials:

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HUGH ADAMS, State Building Commissioner

[redacted], Financial Department

[redacted], Governor's Office

[redacted], Revenue Commission

[redacted] Architect

[redacted] stated this trip was for strictly business purposes and [redacted] did not contact persons other than the state officials before returning to Birmingham. [redacted] regards [redacted] as a business associate who [redacted] Acme Plumbing Company and who is [redacted] of the United Americans for Conservative Government, a political organization to conserve constitutional rights. [redacted] stated he has attended only one meeting of this group which was held at the city hall in Trussville, Alabama, at which the principal speaker was ART MAINES, former mayor. There were approximately 300 to 400 people in attendance, and Reverend GRISWOLD was also a speaker at this meeting. [redacted] was unimpressed and highly disgusted with the type of speech that was made by GRISWOLD in view of his position as a Baptist minister. He is a very outspoken segregationist. [redacted] stated he is not a member of the Klan or the National States Rights Party and

Ala.

On 9/27/63 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 157-386
 by SA [redacted] and BH 157-352
 SA [redacted] yk Date dictated 9/28/63

BH 157-352

does not condone in any way the actions or behavior of this party. He stated his conversation with [redacted] concerning this matter would indicate that [redacted] definitely does not condone the platform of the National States Rights Party and has often said that this group hurts the cause of [redacted] organization. [redacted] stated he attended the annual banquet held in September, 1963, of the United Americans for Conservative Government because he is a personal friend of Governor WALLACE and Governor WALLACE was the principal speaker at the banquet. [redacted] stated [redacted] attended the banquet and later commented that they were a bunch of "rednecks" and that she wished that [redacted] would get out of this organization. [redacted] told [redacted] that

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[redacted] a small newspaper called the "Cahaba News" which is apparently at least \$5,000 in the red, and [redacted] was attempting to sell this paper to [redacted], and [redacted] had approached [redacted] as an investor in this venture. [redacted] stated he has heard no further word from [redacted] concerning the purchase of this paper. [redacted] recalled during his trip to Montgomery that [redacted] introduced him to [redacted] Director of Public Safety, and he overheard [redacted] tell [redacted] to stay away from J. B. STONER, whom [redacted] later learned was the lawyer for the States Rights Party. [redacted] told [redacted] that STONER was "hot."

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[redacted] viewed a group of photographs consisting of ROBERT E. CHAMBLISS and his associates and was unable to identify any of them. He further stated he has not been active in this group; however, he would attend further meetings in an effort to obtain more background information concerning ROBERT E. CHAMBLISS and any information he obtained, especially concerning the bombings in the Birmingham area, he would immediately furnish it to the local FBI Office.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 9/24/63

[redacted] was interviewed at the Minor Heights Baptist Church. She advised that [redacted], Reverend FERRELL GRISWOLD, pastor of the Minor Heights Baptist Church, is out of town. She advised that on Sunday, September 15, 1963, [redacted] preached the sermon at the church at 10 AM and also at the evening service. She advised that [redacted] was at home in the morning before going to church. She stated [redacted] has no knowledge regarding the bombing. She described [redacted] as "an independent Baptist preacher wanting constitutional government."

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On 9/20/63 at Minor Heights, Alabama File # BH 157-352
by SA [redacted] and
SA [redacted] yk Date dictated 9/24/63

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434

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 9/26/63

B. APPROX. 1928

FERRELL EUGENE ~~GRISWOLD~~, Minister, First Baptist Church, Minor Heights, who resides adjacent to the church, appeared at the FBI Office and voluntarily furnished the following information: Birmingham, Ala.

He stated he wished to make his position clear concerning the fact that he is not and never has been a member of the National States Rights Party (NSRP) and he is quite concerned about newspaper articles that gave the inference that meetings and rallies he attends, and in which he is a speaker, that he is a member of the NSRP. He stated he does not advocate or condone in any manner the platform of the NSRP. He is a member of the local John Birch Society and attends meetings regularly on the second Tuesday of each month at the home of [redacted] Minor Heights, Alabama. He stated [redacted] is not a member of the John Birch Society, however [redacted] is an active member. Reverend GRISWOLD is also the honorary chaplain of the United Americans for Conservative Government organization and also an honorary member of the Birmingham Regional Association for Information and Needs (BRAIN) which was formed in June of 1963. [redacted]

[redacted] and [redacted] Reverend GRISWOLD stated approximately two years ago he became very concerned and interested in the subject of communism and has read all the literature he could obtain, including that of J. EDGAR HOOVER, Director of the FBI. He stated he is a segregationist and is frequently invited to speak on the subject of constitutional rights and communism at local meetings of the Klan and other conservative organizations. He stated he is not a member of a Klan; however, on Labor Day, which was September 2, 1963, he was invited to attend and speak at a Klan rally at the request of ROBERT SHELTON on the subject of communism. He stated his friend, [redacted]

[redacted] was also a speaker at this rally. GRISWOLD stated he is willing to speak at any organization which has as its purpose and objective the platform of constitutional rights, segregation, and anti-communism. He described his association with the following individuals:

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On 9/25/63 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 157-382
 by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] Date dictated 9/26/63
 BH 157-387

BH 157-382
BH 157-387

ROBERT SHELTON has invited him to attend and speak at Klan rallies.

[redacted] United Americans for Conservative Government, has made Mr. GRISWOLD honorary chaplain of this organization and GRISWOLD has spoken on several occasions on the subject of communism. Through this organization Mr. GRISWOLD has had association with [redacted] and [redacted] and knows ROBERT CHAMBLISS only by name and reputation for CHAMBLISS' activities in segregation incidents.

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[redacted] is unknown to Mr. GRISWOLD.

Reverend GRISWOLD advised he attended the United Americans for Conservative Government anniversary banquet held in September, 1963, and gave the invocation. He stated he has never known this organization to condone or advocate any violence and he has no knowledge concerning anyone possessing explosives and especially dynamite.

✓ Reverend GRISWOLD stated he attended a rally of the West End Parents for Private Schools held at the Midfield Shopping Center at 3 PM on September 15, 1963, at which time he congratulated the high school students of this group concerning their behavior and obeyance of law during demonstrations the previous week. He stated two young boys attended this meeting and later attended an NSRP meeting, and the newspapers reported that Reverend GRISWOLD was the principal speaker at the NSRP meeting which he pointed out was erroneous. Reverend GRISWOLD stated he has no specific information as to suspects or subjects in the recent bombings in the Birmingham area, and he would immediately furnish the FBI any information that he received.

The following description was obtained through observation and interrogation:

3

BH 157-382
BH 157-387

Name	FERRELL EUGENE GRISWOLD
Occupation	Minister (13 years), First Baptist Church, Minor Heights, Alabama
Residence	Adjacent to church
Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	35
Height	6'
Weight	200 pounds
Build	Heavy
Hair	Light brown (crew cut)
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Medium
Marital status	Married
Education	Howard University
Automobiles owned	1962 gray Mercedes Benz with blue upholstery; 1963 Volkswagen

On Sunday, September 15, 1963, at about 10:20 AM,
when the 16th Street Baptist Church was bombed, Reverend
GRISWOLD was teaching a Sunday School Class at his church.

Date 9/16/63

[redacted] who resides at [redacted] [redacted], Alabama, was interviewed and stated he was on the Governor's Staff and did not condone the violence that took place at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. He stated he was on extended sick leave from the PULLMAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY. [redacted] stated that on that morning, he went to church at the Minor Heights Baptist Church at about 9:15 in the morning and that Sunday School at his church lasted from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. [redacted] stated he attended church with [redacted] at [redacted]

[redacted] stated that while at church he spoke to and shook hands with the Minister, FARRELL GRISWOLD. [redacted] stated after church, he returned to his home and did not leave until about 3:00 p.m., when he left to attend the rally at the Midfield Shopping Center, where Reverend FARRELL GRISWOLD and Legislator, MALCOLM BETHEA were the principal speakers.

[redacted] stated that the principal theme at the rally was for the people to stay off the streets and not to openly demonstrate while the tense situation existed following the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. [redacted] pointed out that he did not condone violence of any type and the incident on September 15, 1963, was deplorable. He stated that this incident served to help the Negroes cause in integration matters and would hurt the segregationists. He said that he had no information to identify suspects or subjects in this matter or any other matters pertaining to violence but he would notify the FBI if he received any information. [redacted] is described as follows:

Name: [redacted]
Sex: [redacted]
Race: [redacted]
Address: [redacted]

Age: [redacted]
Height: [redacted]
Weight: [redacted]
Eyes: [redacted]
Hair: [redacted]
Complexion: [redacted]
Scars and Marks: [redacted]

Peculiarities: [redacted]
Marital Status: [redacted]

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On 9/15/63 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 157-352
by SA'S [redacted] and Date dictated 9/16/63
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BH 157-352

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During another investigation conducted, [redacted]
was interviewed on May 27, 1963, at which time he advised
Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] that
during the evening of May 11, 1963, he attended a rally
sponsored by the Ku Klux Klan at Bessemer, Alabama.

BH 157-352

BIRMINGHAM KLANSMEN

Date 9/25/631b6
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Special Agent [redacted] observed ROBERT M. SHELTON at the Hotel Stafford, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, between the hours of 8:40 a.m. and 9:04 a.m. on September 15, 1963. At that time he was in the company of four unknown white males in the dining room of the hotel. SHELTON's Grand Prix Pontiac was observed in the parking lot of the hotel.

On 9/15/63 at Tuscaloosa, Alabama File # BH 157-339
by SA [redacted] :rak BH 157-352
Date dictated 9/20/63

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Date 9/25/63*Robert Shelton*

ROBERT M. SHELTON, Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, was interviewed at his office. He was advised of the identity of the interviewing agents. He was advised that he did not have to make any statement, that no threats or promises were being made to him, and that any statement he made would be voluntary.

He was questioned as to his whereabouts on the morning of September 15, 1963. He stated that on this particular morning he was at the Hotel Stafford, which information could be verified by the [redacted] of the hotel, [redacted] stating also that he had been observed in the Hotel Stafford by SA [redacted], who he observed to be having breakfast with his family at the hotel. He advised that at approximately 10:00 to 10:30 A.M., he was seated in the lobby of the hotel.

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SHELTON then questioned agents as to whether investigation was being conducted by the FBI concerning some 62 cars of Negroes traveling in a caravan in the area of Highway 69 coming out of Moundville, Alabama, which broke up into smaller groups upon arriving at Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He stated these groups of Negroes were proceeding toward Birmingham on the night of September 14, 1963, that he called the Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Police Department, and talked to Officer [redacted], advising him of this large group of Negroes; that he later called an individual who lived in the Cottondale, Alabama, area on the outskirts of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and that this individual verified to him that 25 carloads of Negroes had passed through Cottondale on U. S. Highway Number 11, en route to Birmingham, Alabama. He declined to identify the individual to whom he had talked at Cottondale, Alabama, and stated that no license numbers were obtained from these cars.

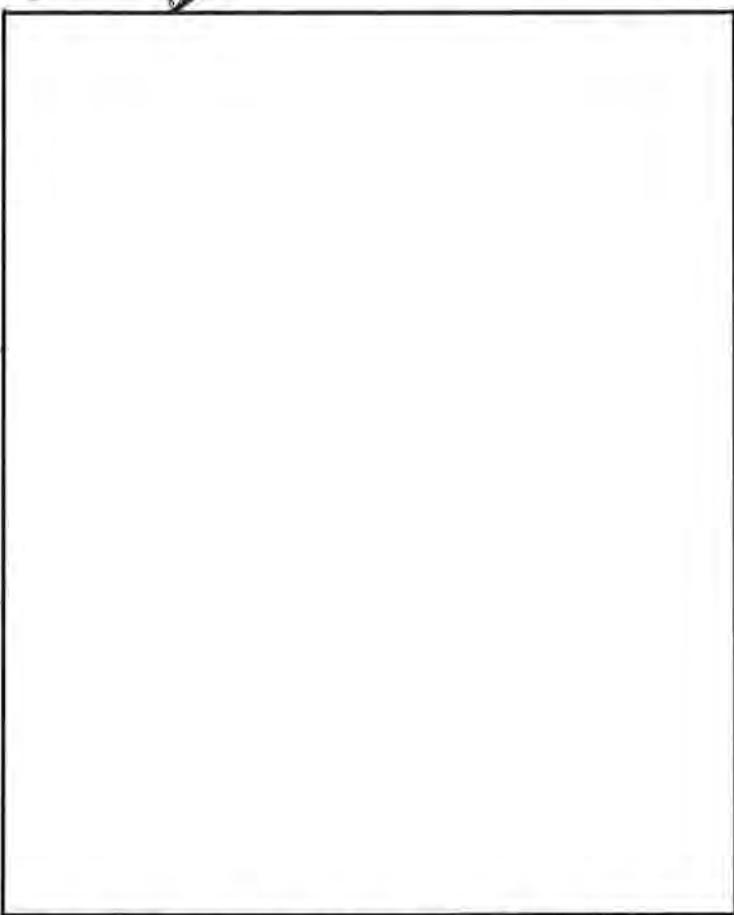
SHELTON advised he was unable to recall specifically his whereabouts on September 4, 1963, but he believed he was in Tuscumbia, Alabama.

On 9/23/63 at Tuscaloosa, Alabama File # BH 157-352
 BH 157-339
 SA [redacted] and
 by SA [redacted] : ela Date dictated 9/24/63

BH 157-352

He pointed out that whenever a bombing occurs, that investigation was always conducted by the FBI as to his whereabouts, and stated that to his knowledge no investigation had been conducted by the FBI concerning known members of the Nation of Islam. He exhibited a file with photographs of the following individuals, whom he identified as known members of the Nation of Islam, residing in Birmingham,

Alabama:



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He advised that he had picked up information concerning heavy traveling by the Muslim members throughout Alabama on September 14, 1963. He declined to identify the source of his information concerning this matter.

BH 157-352

He advised that at approximately 10:30 A.M. on September 15, 1963, he had left the Hotel Stafford at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and had gone to his office, where he remained for approximately an hour and then went to his residence. He stated that on the night of September 15, 1963, after the bombing he had gone to Birmingham, declining to state whom he had contacted there. He advised that it was common knowledge among individuals whom he contacted that the Negroes were doing the bombings in Birmingham, and stated that with the many Negro guards that had been posted in the Negro sections of Birmingham, that it would have been impossible for a white person to have gone into these areas without being observed. He advised that it was his information that [redacted], whom he termed a Communist, had been meeting with Negroes regularly in Birmingham, Alabama. He stated that he felt consideration should be given to investigating these individuals as suspects in the bombing. He advised that at a meeting held at St. Pauls Methodist Church, Birmingham, Alabama, on April 13 and 14, 1962, known Communists, consisting of [redacted] AUBREY WILLIAMS, [redacted] HOSEA L. WILLIAMS, [redacted] of the Highlander Folk School, and others, had met for discussion on integration. He stated that he felt that these individuals should be investigated, that this meeting was sponsored by the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Incorporated. He advised that the host group for this meeting was the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights. He stated also that CAREY BRADEN, a known Communist, had attended this meeting, as well as [redacted].

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Jenn. [redacted] of the Highlander Folk School, and others, had met for discussion on integration. He stated that he felt that these individuals should be investigated, that this meeting was sponsored by the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Incorporated. He advised that the host group for this meeting was the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights. He stated also that CAREY BRADEN, a known Communist, had attended this meeting, as well as [redacted].

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Ala. [redacted] of the Highlander Folk School, and others, had met for discussion on integration. He stated that he felt that these individuals should be investigated, that this meeting was sponsored by the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Incorporated. He advised that the host group for this meeting was the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights. He stated also that CAREY BRADEN, a known Communist, had attended this meeting, as well as [redacted].

SHELTON stated that through "The Southern Patriot" paper, published by the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., 822 Perdido Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, he is fully aware of the activities of the infiltration of the Communist groups into the integration matter, and advised that it was his belief that these bombings were incidents created by these Communist groups.

BH 157-352

SHELTON advised that he had suffered multiple fractures in the recent airplane crash in which one ALVIN SISK was killed, and it was observed that SHELTON's right arm was in a cast.

9/16/63

Date

[redacted] who resides at [redacted] Alabama, was interviewed at his residence and stated that he was home during most of the morning of September 15, 1963, that he only went out at about 8:30 a.m. to pick up [redacted] at the [redacted] at Five Points, West, in Birmingham, Alabama. [redacted] stated that he and [redacted] went to WOODIE'S AMOCO SERVICE STATION on 9th Avenue in Bessemer, Alabama, and then to the Pendorosa Restaurant to have coffee. He said that a "cowboy" ran this restaurant but he could not recall whether he saw cowboy or anyone else at the restaurant on Sunday morning. [redacted] stated that he did not leave the house until about 3:00 p.m., when he went to Midfield Shopping Center to attend a rally where DR. FARRELL GRISWOLD spoke and also Legislator, MALCOLM BETHEA spoke. He explained that the general theme of the GRISWOLD and BETHEA talks had to do with the people staying off the streets and not demonstrating during the tense period following the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. He said that a motorcade had been planned but this motorcade had been canceled.

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[redacted] stated that [redacted] was spending that night at his home. He said that he did not know what organizations [redacted] represented but he believed that [redacted] had been associated with the National States Rights Party (NSRP). [redacted] stated he could not furnish any background information regarding [redacted] other than he came from [redacted]. Ala.

[redacted] made the statement that he was against violence of any type and particularly against the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church because that bombing would hurt the segregationists cause and gain much sympathy for the Negroes. He said he had no information as to the identity of the people causing the explosion but would notify the FBI if he received any information about that bombing or any other such incident. [redacted] is described as follows:

Name: [redacted]

Race: [redacted]

Sex: [redacted]

Born: [redacted]

Height: [redacted]

On 9/15/63 at Bessemer, Alabama

File # BH 157-352

SA's [redacted] and

by [redacted] :rte

Date dictated 9/16/63

BH 157-352

Weight:
Build:
Hair:
Eyes:
Complexion:
Remarks:
Scars:
Marital Status:
Father:
Employment:

Military Service:

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In another investigation conducted [redacted] was interviewed on May 22, 1963, at which time he advised Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] that he attended a rally sponsored by the Ku Klux Klan at Bessemer, Alabama, during the evening of May 11, 1963.

Date 9/16/63

While interviewing [redacted]

[redacted] Alabama, information was received from [redacted] that [redacted] was spending the night at the [redacted] residence. [redacted] was interviewed at which time he stated that his home was in [redacted], and in the past, he has been employed doing electrical work for one [redacted] added that he arrived at Birmingham, Alabama, at approximately 11:00 a.m. on September 14, 1963. He was asked why he had come to Birmingham and he stated that he had come to visit "friends." He did not elaborate further on the reason for his visit to Birmingham. He indicated that he was staying at the [redacted] residence while in Birmingham. He said that on the morning of September 15, 1963, he and [redacted] had been at the [redacted] at about 8:30 a.m.; further, that he and [redacted] had spent the remainder of the day together. On Sunday morning, September 15, 1963, they had [redacted] 1963 white two-door Chevrolet serviced at WOODY'S AMACO SERVICE STATION and after the car was serviced, they went to the Ponderosa Cafe where they had coffee. He could not recall the exact time they were at these places. They returned to the [redacted] home and stayed there until shortly before 3:00 p.m. when they attended a rally at Midfield, Alabama. At this rally, Reverend FARRELL GRISWOLD and Legislator MALCOLM BETHEA spoke, urging the group of several hundred people present at the rally not to demonstrate during the tense period following the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

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During the interview, [redacted] appeared somewhat antagonistic, and asked the Agents "Have they found the Negro who killed the white man in Lexington, North Carolina?" and "Does the NAACP in its meeting say a pledge of allegiance to the flag?" [redacted] did not appear co-operative and was also short-spoken in answers to questions.

From observation, [redacted] is described as follows:

Sex: [redacted]
Age: [redacted]
Residence [redacted]
Height: [redacted]

On 9/15/63 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BB 157-352
SA's [redacted] and [redacted]
by [redacted] Date dictated 9/16/63